Electrification of rail tracks in Rajasthan

1477. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the policy of his Ministry regarding electrification of railway tracks;

(b) how many proposals for electrification of railway-tracks have been received from the State of Rajasthan, till date; and

(c) what is the present status of Kota-Baran-Chhabra-Guna-Bina section as well as of Jaipur-Sawai Madhopur Section and time likely to be taken for electrification of these tracks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Policy for Electrification of Railway tracks is as under:

Electrification projects are considered primarily on economic considerations excepting projects justified as operational necessity. The criteria/guidelines being followed in this regard are as under:

(i) Each electrification project will be justified on Rate of Return, which should exceed 14% with the Discounted Cash Flow (DCF) method.

(ii) In certain specific cases, electrification will be justified on considerations of operational flexibility.

(iii) While proposing electrification of a route, the rail network in the region in totality should be considered to include, if necessary, short route lengths, which would otherwise remain non-electrified and reduce operational flexibility.

(b) and (c) Following three proposals for electrification of railway tracks have been received from the State of Rajasthan till date. The status are as under:

SL No.	Section	Status
1.	Bina-Kota	The work is in progress and targeted for completion by March, 2009.
2.	Jaipur-Sawai Madhopur	Not viable.
3.	Ratlam-Neemuch-Chittorgarh	Not viable.

Relief to victims of Mumbai rail blast

1478. SHRI VEDPRAKASH P. GOYAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received grievances and complaints from the victims of 11th July, 2006 Mumbai bomb blast;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) what type of medical relief, arrangements made for the blast victims for successive medical surgeries, providing hearing aids/artificial limbs, etc.;

(d) whether it is a fact that his Ministry has come out with the explanation 'immediate relief and refused to make above arrangements; and

(d) if so, who would have to bear this cost?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R VELU): (a) Yes, Sir. Some complaints have been received.

(b) The complaints are related to non payment of medical expenses, grant of Railway employment and delay in settlement of claims cases in Railway Claims Tribunal.

(c) to (e) Emergency and Essential Medical Treatment aimed towards saving the life/limbs or other parts of the body of the injured persons of Mumbai Train Bomb Blast victims were provided by the Railways. There is no arrangement for successive surgeries and Hearing Aids for the victims to be provided by the Railways. However, all the victims requiring artificial limbs have been provided the same by various Non-Governmental Organizations.

Power generation project in Tamil Nadu

1479. DR. K. MALAISAMY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Railways are proposing to take up the power generation project of 1000 MW in Tamil Nadu;

(b) if so, what is the quantum of contribution by the State Government and Railways;

(c) what is the stage of progress of this project; and

(d) whether it is the basic function of Railways to indulge this kind of project and by doing so, whether it would affect or divert their main function?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R.VELU) (a) to (c) No, Sir.

(d) Yes, Sir. Indian Railways consumed approximately 10.4 billion units during 2005-06 for traction purpose. The electricity bill for 2005-06 was approximately Rs. 4391 crore. The electricity bill was 12.49% of Railway's ordinary working expenses during 2005-06. This will not affect/divert the Railways from its main function. It will rather help in reducing the unit cost of transport on Indian Railways.